REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Examiner's Official Action mailed April 9, 2003 in which Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Delorme* et al (US Patent 6,321,158). Claims 5 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

By the present amendments, Claims 5 and 10 are amended. Support for amended Claims 5 and 10 is found in the application as originally filed. It is submitted that amended Claims 5 and 10 do not add new matter.

Response to the Examiner's 103 Rejection

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Delorme et al.* Applicant respectfully but strongly traverses.

The present invention relates to systems and methods for providing a zooming feature for an image on a screen, and is particularly applicable to touch-screen and stylus input type devices. In accordance with the present invention, the zoom action is centered on a point on the screen indicated by the stylus. Furthermore, zooming continues until the stylus is removed from the screen so that the point is no longer being indicating to. In one of the main preferred features, the zoom centre moves to track the stylus as the stylus is moved across the screen, while still in contact with the screen.

The present invention provides an efficient and user-friendly zooming method which provides the user with a simple and easily controlled zoom function.

Delorme et al. mainly relates to a combination desktop computer and handheld computer system that allows a user to create a personal route plan for a holiday or the like. The system allows for the desktop computer (which has a relatively large memory) to include a large number of multimedia files and the like from which the user can create a customised route plan by picking and choosing the files that may be of interest to them, e.g. by topic and/or location. This customised plan (containing only a subset of the desktop files) is then downloaded to the handheld computer. Thus, the system seeks to provide good route plans for a user whilst overcoming the memory limitations of the handheld computer.

Delorme et al. neither relates to the problems that are addressed by the present invention, nor provides the solution of the present invention.

Delorme et al. mentions zooming only briefly, and provides scant detail as to the mechanisms involved. What is clear, however, is that the zooming methods taught are completely different to those of the present invention. The teachings of *Delorme et al.* neither disclose nor suggest the present invention.

In *Delorme et al.*, a user can zoom with a Palm™ organiser by using the organizer's scroll bars (column 16, lines 55-61) or can zoom with a Windows CE™ device by using ALT+PAGE DOWN/PAGE UP (Column 21, lines 28-34). The user may also click on one of three arrows 130 of Fig. 1B (each of which presumably corresponding to a specific map scale). Thus, in none of the taught zoom operations does the user indicate a point on the screen for a zoom centre, and nor is a zoom action continued with whilst the stylus remains pointed at the chosen zoom centre. Thus, in *Delorme et al.*, the user has little control over the zoom, and, indeed, the zoom function is only available under certain specific conditions, e.g. when the user is in a rectangle about a start or finish point or the like.

The only other zoom function mentioned is an "automatic zoom". This is provided when the GPS system detects that the user is approaching e.g. a finish point, in which case the device automatically goes to a map of a higher level of detail. In this case, however, there is no user intervention whatsoever, which is completely against the teachings of the present invention.

It should be noted that there would be no incentive for the skilled man to provide a zoom function in accordance with the present invention in the system of *Delorme et al.*, as it would provide no particular benefit to that system. Thus, in *Delorme et al.*, there only appear to be two or three different maps that may be switched between - presumably due to the need to conserve memory in the handheld device and to allow the device to also hold accompanying multimedia files and the like. Accordingly, the user will be limited to a single zoom between a first large scale map and a second smaller scale map, and perhaps one further zoom. There are thus no multiple stages of zoom available in *Delorme et al.* that would allow for or benefit from multiple and continuous zooming.

The arguments raised for obviousness against claims 1, 6, 11, 12 and 14 appear to be basically the same – that the *Delorme et al.* stylus manages "the virtual equivalent of typical computer mouse commands and manipulations", that the device provides an "automatic zooming", and that it would be obvious to have "an option for adjusting the zooming of point of interest with respect to the display" since "the IRMIS technology enables advanced map displays". However, as noted above, the "automatic zooming" teaches completely against the present invention, as there is no user control and the zoom is operated by GPS. Further, neither the centering of the zoom on a point indicated by a stylus nor the continuing of the zoom until the stylus is lifted can be said to be encompassed within or disclosed by the phrase "typical mouse commands and manipulations" nor can they be seen in any of the features of the IRMIS that are disclosed – there is just no suggestion of this, and indeed the zooming methods of Delorme et al. teach completely different

zooming methods. At most, the reference that the stylus provides mouse commands can imply nothing more than that the stylus could be used to tap on the arrows or scroll bars mentioned above.

In view of the forgoing, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 6, 11, 12 and 14 are clearly patentably distinguished from *Delorme et al.* and therefore are allowable under 35 USC 103(a) over *Delorme et al.*

With respect to Claims 2-5, 7-10, 13 and 15, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable in that they variously depend from Claims 1, 6, 11, 12 and 14 respectively. However, Applicant offer the following additional comments with respect to Claims 4, 9, 13 and 15. Applicant submits that claims 4, 9, 13 and 15 are further non-obvious over *Delorme et al.* due to the limitation recited therein, i.e., that the centre of the zoom follows the stylus as it moves across the screen. Such a feature is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited reference.

Response to the Examiner's 112 Rejection

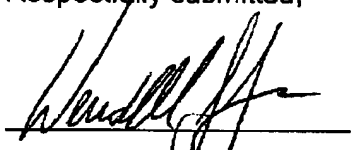
The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner stated there was insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation of "mathematical object" in the claim.

Applicant submits that the term "mathematical object" is clear and would be well understood by a skilled man. Applicant has, however, amended the claims to specify that the term relates to mathematical functions or relations having a symbolic formula, as supported on page 6, lines 13-15 of the specification. It is submitted that the Examiner's rejections under section 112 have been overcome in view of the amendments to claims 5 and 10.

In view of the amendments and discussions set forth herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the grounds for the Examiner's rejections and objections have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-15 as amended should now be found to be all in the condition for allowance.

Date: September 9, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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